



Tibetan Aid Project

Dear Friend,

Each year, volunteers attending the annual World Peace Ceremony in Bodh Gaya, India read aloud the names of every donor who has contributed to the Tibetan Aid Project. This January, Dan Albers offered to carry out this small gesture of appreciation: "Sitting in the shade of the bodhi tree, where the Buddha attained enlightenment, more than 2,000 years ago, I found myself reading the names in harmony with the chanted prayers of a monk sitting nearby, the sounds of the names blending with the syllables of the Tibetan prayer. It was profoundly moving."

These two different voices continue to resonate—two distinct offerings that together reflect the natural harmony between the generosity of our supporters and the teachings of compassion that form the heart of the Tibetan tradition. For those who attend the ceremony, the willingness of people here in the West to open their hearts to the Tibetan people affirms that compassion is a living, active force in the world.



A young monk passes out sacred texts to fellow participants in the 2009 World Peace Ceremony.

The spirit of generosity infuses the World Peace Ceremony, where individuals make special efforts to take care of one another. Participants come from all over the Himalayas to offer prayers for peace and for the well-being of all people. Anyone who needs a meal is fed, and people lend a hand whenever they see a need. Volunteers enter into the same spirit as they help distribute a multitude of gifts to the assembly. This year's ceremony saw the distribution of over 130,000 sacred texts, 10,000 prayer wheels, and 3 million sacred art prints.

Members of the assembly admire the handcrafted ceremonial bells they received at the 2009 World Peace Ceremony.



The entire ceremony and all of its offerings are provided through the giving and kindness of individuals, including you.

In the twenty years since the first World Peace Ceremony, Tibetans have received over 2.5 million books, 110,000 prayer wheels, and more than 4 million art prints. The Tibetan people need these gifts to pass their traditions on to future generations, and the annual distributions have already had a profound effect by replenishing libraries and increasing access to vital teachings. Individual monks now have their own copies of texts that were formerly inaccessible or had to be shared among many, many people. In the past, nuns were restricted in their practice to chanting, prayers, and offerings, but now they study Buddhist texts on an equal basis with monks. These texts have also inspired a surge in literacy among lay people, letting them engage their tradition in a new way.

The Tibetans who gather at Bodh Gaya receive these important offerings with deep gratitude and joy. Their appreciation radiates through their smiles and laughter, and through the moving gesture in which they reverently touch a sacred object to their foreheads. Most speak no English, but words cannot express the awe of recipients and volunteers—that so much can be given so freely, year after year.

During this sacred ceremony, generosity echoes throughout Bodh Gaya and out into the world, bringing joy and peace to those who hear it. Let your voice join the assembly. Please make a donation to support the preservation of these incomparable teachings of wisdom and compassion. Your contribution will fund the production and distribution of the texts and other sacred items that Tibetans need to keep their culture alive. It will benefit the Tibetan people and offer hope for all humanity.

Thank you for your generous support.

With deep appreciation,



Rosalyn White
Executive Director



A lay woman smiles with appreciation as she receives a hand-held prayer wheel.



A Bhutanese lay person offers a gesture of thanks outside the temple in Bodh Gaya.